Chapter I

Abraham Zapruder Films the Assassination

Early on Friday morning the 22nd of November, 1963, late autumn rain fell on Dallas, pushed with gusts of wind. A few hours before noon the rain would end and the sun break through the clouds. But the erratic wind bursts would linger.

That morning the 59-year old Abraham Zapruder drove seven miles from his Dallas home to his shop in the Dal-Tex building at 501 Elm Street, the corner of Elm and Houston Street, where he manufactured ladies dresses.[1] Kitty-corner lay the public park of Dealey Plaza; directly west across Houston at 411 Elm stood the Texas School Book Depository building. A co-owner of Jennifer Juniors, Inc., with his young partner Erwin Schwartz,[2] the heir of his deceased partner, Zapruder managed the factory and Schwartz the sales.[3] In 1905 Zapruder had been born in Russia where he and his family had experienced terrible persecution.[4] Once Polish soldiers stopped a train he and his brother were riding, took his brother off and shot him; brutal Cossacks regularly ravaged his village.[5] America gave him freedom and opportunity and a good life. He spoke with a slight accent.[6]